

NPIC/PSG/RD-30-69  
3 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Production Services Group, NPIC

SUBJECT: [ ] Processor

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1. Attached is a trip report from [ ] recent visit [ ] for the purpose of inspecting the [ ] processor. After reading [ ] report and discussing it [ ] feel stronger than ever that the processor should not be installed in NPIC, even for test purposes.

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2. The processor is designed to process roll film only, at a rather slow speed and is not the type of equipment that could be used to any great extent in the NPIC lab. Our requirements for processing roll material are extremely low and we would spend three or four times as many manhours in make ready and clean up as we would in actually processing material. The versamats which we currently use when the need arises do a good job and at a much faster speed. Secondly, the processor operates at very high temperature (110°F plus or minus a half degree.) This alone poses several problems since heat exchangers would have to be purchased and installed and modification to the tank farm would have to be made before the processor could be operated. An estimate of installing the processor on a make shift basis has been placed in the neighborhood of 5 to 6 thousand dollars.

3. During discussions [ ] gathered the impression that [ ] the processor is not now operational and that without a major re-design it would never be. It was also quite apparent that [ ] no desire to continue with the project especially if they are to provide any more capital.

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4. It is my recommendation that if NPIC wishes to continue this project, arrangements should be made for the installation of the processor where it can be tested under actual operating conditions and remain in place, if and when it becomes operational.

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Attachment: As stated

Production Services Group

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24 February 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Reprographic Division, PSG

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Processor Project

1. A trip was made [REDACTED] during 27-30 January [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Discussions were held [REDACTED] for the [REDACTED] processor.

2. [REDACTED] spent approximately [REDACTED] of their own money in the development of the [REDACTED] processor. The [REDACTED] principal has not been successful, even with other size machines using the same concept. He feels the situation unfortunate, but they are doing the best they can with the [REDACTED] Wide Film Processor without a major redesign which they do not intend to do.

3. The processor has a heating unit to maintain temperature within the tanks. However, this unit will not pre-heat incoming solutions. In order to achieve controlled processing it will be necessary to pre-heat all replenisher chemicals to maintain a temperature of 110F  $\pm$  1/2 degree thus sensitometric control of processing will be difficult to maintain.

4. Tests were underway with a conventional type dryer mock up [REDACTED] [REDACTED] now plans using a dryer in the processor which uses several rollers for transporting the film and a squeegee assembly for removing excess water. This should be completed for delivery in the second week in March 1969. In conclusion, it is my opinion the processor will not meet the demands of production and quality of product expected of the Photographic Services Branch. Therefore, I feel it would be unwise to consider this processor as a permanent installation for the PSB/RD.

[REDACTED]